

Application No. 10/039,106
Amendment dated January 2, 2004
Reply to Election/Restriction of December 12, 2003

Remarks

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Restriction Requirement mailed on December 12, 2003.

The Restriction Requirement indicated that election to one of the following groups was required.

Group I Claims 1-7, drawn to system configuring, classified in class 710, subclass 104;

Group II Claims 8-14, drawn to bus expansion or extension, classified in class 710, subclass 300; or

Group III Claims 15-20, drawn to using transmitter and receiver, classified in class 710, subclass 106.

Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the invention of Group II (claims 8-14) directed to a method of terminating a bus. The Restriction Requirement is traversed on the basis that Restriction Requirements are optional in all cases. M.P.E.P. § 803. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits. M.P.E.P. § 803. Applicant notes that each independent claim (claims 1, 8, and 15) are drawn generally to terminating a bus. For example, claim 1 in Group I (claims 1-7) recites "a controller coupled to said bus, configured to discover whether to terminate said bus...." Moreover, Groups II (claims 8-14) and Group III (claims 15-50) both recite methods of terminating a bus (claims 8-14) and more specifically terminating a CAN bus (claims 15-20). Finally, it is submitted that Applicant should not be required to incur the additional costs associated with the filing of multiple divisional applications in order to obtain protection for the claimed subject matter.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 51.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 2nd day of January, 2004.

Sarah L. Reinhard
Name

Sarah L. Reinhard
Signature

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul E. Gregory, et al.

By their Representatives,
E.J. BROOKS & ASSOCIATES, PLLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55403

By: Edward J. Brooks III
Edward J. Brooks III
Reg. No. 40,925

Date: 1/2/2004